

**North Carolina Council for Women  
Quarterly Meeting  
Governor's Crime Commission  
November 5, 2010**

Location: 1201 Front Street, Suite 200  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Attendees:** Meena Ahuja, Beth Briggs, Robin Coates, Kate Deiter-Maradei, Ann Gerhardt, Valerie Johnson, Dr. Julie Lapham, Mary Peterson, Chair, Melissa Reed and Laura Wallace

**Absent Members:** Minnie Forte-Brown, Meenal Khajuria, Jane Martin, Muriel Offerman, Lisa Pizñero, Dr. Barbara E. Riley, and Jenny Ward

**NC CFW Staff:** Executive Director Jill Dinwiddie, Assistant Director Mary Williams-Stover, and Cindy Olsen

**Guests:** Donna Bickford and Leah Perkinson

**I. Welcome/Introductions – Mary Peterson, Chair and Executive Director Jill Dinwiddie**

- Chairperson Mary Peterson welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that those present introduce themselves and indicate their affiliation.
- She then distributed a rubber band and a short piece of string. She stated that the rubber band symbolizes stretching your mind to the end and the string symbolizes tying the ends all together.
- Executive Director Jill Dinwiddie shared that she received a call from Governor Perdue's office to announce that Melanie Barnes will be attending the NC Governor's Conference for Women on November 9<sup>th</sup>. In preparation, Ms. Dinwiddie has requested that a Displaced Homemaker program and the Western Region Director share a success story where a woman has turned her life around as a result of participating in a DH program.
- Ms. Dinwiddie spoke at a "Women's Fund" breakfast meeting in Winston-Salem to celebrate the group's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, as well as to recognize the five women founders of the organization..
- It was pointed out that there are eleven "Women to Women" Foundations in North Carolina and there are plans to expand in the next five years.
- The CFW's Assistant Director, Mary Williams-Stover, announced that the CFW's Region Directors will be meeting in Raleigh on Monday, Nov. 8 and the following Monday the CFW will host a video conference to discuss the Displaced Homemaker manual. The video conference will be broadcast at six pre-determined locations around the state.

**II. Approval of the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes – Mary Peterson, Chair**

- Chairperson Peterson asked if anyone had any additions or corrections to the September 24, 2010 Council for Women meeting minutes. Dr. Julie Lapham stated that Dr. Malveaux's first name should be spelled "Julianne".
- Beth Briggs made the motion to approve the minutes with the one name change and Valerie Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with the one change.
- Ms. Dinwiddie gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Mission, Vision and Initiatives of the Council agency which is part of the Strategic Planning process of DOA.

### **III. Committee Work**

- Members of the Self-Sufficiency, Advocacy and Empowerment and Economic self-Sufficiency subcommittees met as separate groups to discuss plans for the future.
- After a brief meeting time, a spokesperson from each group reported out.
- Ms. Dinwiddie reported that she has met four times with Jenny Ward, Karen-Parker Thompson, Cathy Roche, Mary Tribble and Linda Lockman Brooks to discuss plans for the design of a Public Awareness Campaign focusing on Violence Against Women. The group will use the power point presentation to raise private funds and to gain the support of the legislature for the project.

### **IV. Committees Reporting Out**

- Robin Coates, with the Community College system, stated that there are small business centers at all community colleges in North Carolina and they are funded through categorical funding. Ms. Coates added that a need exists to counsel women on how to start their own businesses. Another suggestion was to request that the legislature allocate an additional one to two percent to the community colleges for that purpose. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce may be able to provide support.
- It was pointed out that Cottage Industries exist in all 100 North Carolina counties which provide an opportunity to highlight women in their own counties. Upcoming concerns include restrictions on access to healthcare for women with an expected \$4 billion cut, as well as the impact on childcare with anticipated cuts to SmartStart.
- Valerie Johnson reported that students at Bennett College conducted a survey to find out what services were available at every NC domestic violence shelter. The shelters that were surveyed were those that do not receive state funding. Dr. Johnson stated that she would be happy to share copies of the report with members. Dr. Johnson reported that students conducted their research by going online, obtaining the phone numbers and placing calls to each DV program.
- Laura Wallace stated that her past experience with women living in Cottage Industries, was that they were not open to sharing information for fear that it might affect the services that they were receiving (i.e. food stamps).
- Another concern that was raised dealt with women's health and the impact that aging, stress and poor health has on baby boomers. Women in the military also experience these same issues. The website being developed could identify women's health organizations and non-profits. Creating a Survey Monkey was also suggested and Laura Wallace agreed to help with that. Another idea was to identify organizations that can help us. Obtaining speakers was another idea and included requesting Gwendolyn Burrell as one choice.
- Laura Wallace shared that friends of hers would be happy to help put the database together. Monetary donations were suggested as well.
- It was pointed out that a timeline should be developed. An Awareness component to get the information out to the public is also needed.

**V. Presentation – Human Trafficking – Dr. Donna Bickford – UNC-CH**

- Ms. Bickford distributed a handout on Human Trafficking. She began her presentation with the definition of Human Trafficking and pointed out that it includes moving bodies across borders with force or coercion.
- Ms. Bickford pointed out that human trafficking can involve sex or labor and the current statistics are between 600,000 - 800,000 cases where someone is taken across the border each year. The number of kids that are trafficked is estimated to be 100,000 – 300,000 each year.
- It is estimated that 32 billion dollars is made in profit from human trafficking.
- The question was asked “How do you find out if people are being exploited?” Ms. Bickford stated that Jay Silverman came to UNC to provide training that included the red flags to look for. They include ethnic populations where they don’t speak any English, they have to ask permission to do anything or they may not have their own documentation for citizenship in the US.
- For more information or to report tips on suspected Human Trafficking, you can call 1-888-373-7888.
- Valerie Johnson pointed out that during harvest season, people may be forced to work in labor camps during the day and to participate in prostitution at night. However, it may be harder to identify in rural areas of the state.
- Ms. Bickford pointed out that when someone calls 911 or the hotline to report suspected cases of human trafficking, a Crisis Response Team responds. These teams exist in the Triad, Triangle, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, and Pitt County.
- Ms. Bickford stated that the response to cases of human trafficking is inconsistent.
- Valerie Johnson shared that Bennett College will offer a Human Trafficking Conference in April, 2011.

**VI. Presentation – 10 Year Prevention Plan – Leah Perkinson**

Ms. Perkinson began her presentation by distributing copies of the 10 year Prevention Plan . to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence, which is a project of NCCADV. The plan aims to create a North Carolina that:

- Promotes the basic human right of all people to live free of violence
- Addresses the multiple forms of oppression that combine to cause violence within society
- Advocates for change in social norms that perpetuate violence
- Sustains healthy relationships by developing peaceful and supportive families, communities and social system.
- The NC CFW had previously sent a letter of endorsement for the plan.

**VII. Closing Remarks/Adjournment**